

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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Date Issued: July 24, 1996
CMSP Letter: 96-11

To: All County Medical Services Program (CMSP) County Welfare Directors

Subject: IMPACT OF SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION CHANGES FOR
DRUG ADDICTION AND ALCOHOLISM (DA&A) BASED DISABILITY
(ie. MEDI-CAL LETTER NOS. 96-021 and 96-231, and PUBLIC LAWS
104-121 and 104-296)

Federal legislation has ended the drug addiction and alcohol disability based eligibility for SSI/SSP and for OASDI eligibility for federal assistance. The Legislation, although ending the drug and alcohol based linkage at the passing of the law in April, has decreed that all present cases will be closed December 31, 1996. All such recipients will be notified beginning in late June of 1996 regarding the December 31st discontinuance date and informing such recipients of their right to apply for other disability based eligibility.

After a thorough review of this issue, the CMSP Governing Board recognized the potential fiscal implications to the CMSP of shifting several thousand current "Medi-Cal" eligibles (funded by State and Federal Funds) to the CMSP (funded primarily by County Realignment Funds). Accordingly, the Governing Board directed its Eligibility Committee to develop and implement an action plan which would insure that these former Medi-Cal DA&A eligibles be properly and thoroughly reevaluated for Medi-Cal eligibility.

The purpose of this letter is to inform participating CMSP counties that the Eligibility Committee has recommended a course of action for counties to follow when an individual who was formerly a DA&A based Medi-Cal eligible applies for medical assistance at the county.

In addition to the county's regular intake process, this course of action includes, at a minimum, the aggressive pursuit of the reevaluation of Medi-Cal eligibility for these former Medi-Cal eligibles, either on the basis of a disability other than DA&A or through the recognition of another linkage to Medi-Cal.

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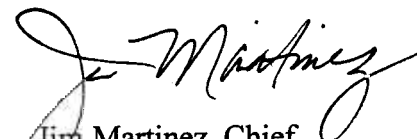
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Counties should actively assist such applicants in their pursuit of disability based Medi-Cal and track the progress and compliance of such individuals in this reevaluation. Counties should, when applicable, make full use of the assistance which may be available from community based organizations (legal assistance, targeted local assistance groups, charitable organizations, etc.) in order to insure the completion of this reevaluation. Former DA&A Medi-Cal eligibles undergoing a reevaluation who have been determined eligible for the CMSP must be flagged and placed in either CMSP Aid Code 88 or 89 as appropriate to facilitate central tracking of these cases.

As with any activity considered part of the CMSP eligibility determination process, any time and costs expended as a part of the eligibility determination process including those for these activities, must be reported through the approved regular administrative cost claiming process.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Paulette Quam at, (916) 323-1613 or by FAX at (916) 323-3350.

Sincerely,



Jim Martinez, Chief
County Medical Services Program Unit

cc: Ms. Paulette Quam
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